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SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1911.

THE MEAT-MAKERS AND THE RAILROADS.

Clifford Thorne is a lawyer. He is counsel for the Meat Producers' Association of the Middle West, and is naturally and professionally and selfishly opposed to any advance in railroad freight rates. He told the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington on Thursday what a bad thing it would be for the country, and proved to his own satisfaction, by the figures he had compiled for the purpose of convincing himself, that the roads are in a prosperous condition, as his figures show that during the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, the roads had a net income larger by \$70,000,000 than they had ever had "in their entire history." No controversy ever existed before it couldn't exist behind, manifestly when the stake between opposing parties, said Lawyer Thorne, "was as sure as this one, measured by the cold standard of dollars and cents." Probably, Lawyer Thorne is right, although we have not the least idea what he meant by what he said. There is one point, however, that everybody can understand, because it can be told in plain, everyday language, and it relates to the great interest which lawyer Thorne represents and which he is paid a good fat fee to represent—the Meat Producers' Association.

See The World Almanac for 1911, page 267, for particulars about the "Comparative Prices of Commodities" during the period from 1890 to 1910, both years included. In 1890 the price of beef, carcasses, in Chicago per pound was .055; in 1910, the price was .055. In 1890, the price of hogs, market pigs, carcasses, per pound, was .03575; in 1910, the price was .1175. The price of beef, family, per barrel, in 1890, was \$5.50; in 1910, the price was \$10.50. In 1890, the price of pork, new mess, per barrel, was \$12.25. In 1910, the price was \$19. In 1890, the price of bacon, short ribs, smoked, per pound, was .0425; in 1910, the price was .1175. In 1890, the price of hams, smoked, per pound, was .10 cents; in 1910, the price was 16 cents. In 1890, the price of lard, Western steam, per pound, was .0425; in 1910, the price was .1215.

These are the things in which Lawyer Thorne's clients deal. They will probably explain that they have had to raise their prices because the prices of the hogs and cattle, out of which they manufacture their products, have recently advanced in value. That is a very good reason, but it would seem that they have raised their prices unduly, for whereas the price of the best native steers per 100 pounds was in 1890 \$14.45 and in 1910 only \$1.55, the price of beef per barrel was in 1890 \$5.50, Lawyer Thorne's clients had jumped the price to \$10.50 in 1910. Hogs were worth \$1.375 per 100 pounds in 1890, and \$5.00 in 1910. Pork into which these hogs were converted by Lawyer Thorne's clients was worth in 1890 \$12.25 per 100 pounds, and in 1910 \$19 per 100 pounds.

Queer, isn't it? In trying to mislead the Interstate Commerce Commission, Lawyer Thorne should have compiled figures only about what the railroad had been making, and that he did not say a word about what the Meat Producers' Association have been "sitting down." Stranger still that he should have failed to explain to the Commission that during all this time when the Meat Producers were backing up the price of their manufactures at a fearful rate, the railroads were hauling their goods to market at the same old rates.

There appears to be another side of the case to that so forcibly presented to the Commission by the lawyer of the Meat Producers, who have been fatting at will on the great meat-eating public of this country.

THE VOTERS IN CANNON'S COUNTY.

Vermillion County, Illinois, is contending with Adams County, Ohio, for the blue ribbon as the champion vote-buying and vote-selling county of the world. We are told that by ones and twos the rascals are sneaking over to Isaac Woodward's house, in Danville, sometimes late at night, so that no one will see them, and telling stories about the election frauds that have been committed. Woodward is the foreman of the grand jury of the county, and it is expected that there will be a rush for the grand jury room to "fess up" when that body is in session. Thirty-five hundred voters are said to have either bought or sold their ballots in this county, and this is only a starter, and these thirty-five hundred voters are to be disfranchised as soon as their confessions are made or their guilt established. There is a debate between the temperance people and the whiskey people as to whether these voters were wet or dry. The "dry" claim that if thirty-five hundred voters are disfranchised now that they were "wets," and that the "drys" will carry the county at the next election. At a recent primary in Vermillion

County, the drain on the politicians was so heavy that the money gave out, and three hundred disgusted American voters left the polls without casting their ballots. Danville is the home of Speaker Cannon. It is claimed that his election will not be affected by these disclosures, but, in order that the enormity of the offense committed might attract the attention of the whole country, it would not be a bad thing for Congress to order an investigation.

The presumption is that all voters in Vermillion County are corrupt, and in every county in Illinois and in the State of Ohio as well. Why not disfranchise all the voters in these States? That is to say, all the Republican voters in these States should be disfranchised.

FUSSING ABOUT BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Several speakers are said to have made a most vigorous protest at the meeting of the Twentieth Century Club of All Souls' Unitarian Church in Washington to any attempt to recognize the Mormon Church in the inscriptions upon the silver service to be presented to the United States battleship "Utah" by the State of Utah. Other protests of the same sort have been made by other bsnxbodies, and there is a determined effort to prevent such a desecration of the silver to be given to the great fighting machine.

We must say that we should rather not look at old Brigham while drinking coffee or eating soup, if soup is really eaten; but if the sovereign State of Utah must have a picture on its typical soup tureen or official coffee tray there is no picture that would be more proper than the likeness of Joseph Smith's immediate successor in the Church of the Latter Day Saints, Miserable old wretch that he was, it is a fact that Brigham did more to build up Utah than any other man who has ever lived in that region. His religion was of the earth earthly, his wives were more in number than any man should be expected to care for, and his hands were stained with Gentile blood, but he was the pioneer in that desolate land, now grown into the dignity of Statehood and possessing the inalienable right to do what it pleases with its own official silver.

The Twentieth Century Club in Washington would find plenty of work to do of a reformatory character within its legitimate territory, doubtless, if it would look around a bit, instead of wasting its energies on the soup tureen and coffee tray of a fifth battleship named in honor of the State of Utah. The Mormons are not confined, in fact, to the followers of Brigham Young and the State of Utah.

LOCAL OPTION IN TEXAS.

Governor Oscar Branch Colquitt—we do not know where he got the Oscar from, but Branch is a good Virginia name and Colquitt sounds like Georgia—has taken charge of the State Government of Texas and made a creditable inaugural address. Among his recommendations are stringent regulations for so-called "social clubs," the control of State penitentiaries by a commission similar to the State Railroad Commission, reform in court procedure, the establishment of a State institution for the care and treatment of those afflicted with tuberculosis and leprosy, an amendment of the anti-pass law so as to allow newspapers to exchange advertising space for transportation, and local option as the "most rational form of prohibition."

All of these recommendations are reasonable, and it is hoped that they will be embodied in law. Governor Colquitt was elected on an anti-prohibition platform, defeating the State-wide movement by a comfortable majority, and being elected Governor of the State by a plurality of 117,886 votes, receiving 79.1 per cent. of the total vote cast. There are now 154 prohibition counties in the State of Texas, but we have been informed that there has been no lack of liquor in the State. The local option plan recommended by Governor Colquitt only means that the people of the various counties shall determine for themselves the question as to whether or not liquor shall be sold within their borders, and under what restrictions and regulations. This is a practical and democratic way of settling the question.

SEAMY PLACES IN THE SOUTH.

According to the Washington Post, Secretary Nagel, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, has been compelled to suppress much of the reports of the agents of the Labor Bureau because of their revelations concerning the private lives of people in North Carolina and other Southern States. Senator Overman said in the Senate on Thursday that some of these reports were so revolting in character that they could not be sent through the mails without violating the law prohibiting the circulation of obscene literature. It is reported that the agents of the Government, although confined by law to inquiries touching only labor conditions, went into the investigation of the private affairs of the people. The inquiries, made under the direction of Secretary Nagel, cost, in round figures, about \$200,000.

When the Senator from North Carolina described the character of the work done by the Government agents, Senator Bailey, of Texas, remarked: "Just so, whenever we allow one of these meddlesome officers to get his nose into the front doors of the homes of the people, he is liable to go farther than he should." It seems that in extending the activities of the Federal Government this is precisely one of the results that is almost sure to be reached. Settling Federal spies upon the people is apt to result in the development of conditions not contemplated by law. If there be such immorality among the people of the Southern States, for we suppose that is what the suppressed reports of the

Federal agents cover, the conditions should be cured by local applications, and not by Federal interference. Wherever the Federal agent has gone he has made trouble, particularly when dealing with local conditions. The Federal Government was not established as the schoolmaster, nor yet as the moral guide and spiritual adviser of the people of the several States.

We shall hear a great deal more that is not agreeable to the income tax amendment to the Constitution shall be adopted. In one of the Southern States the experiences of the people for fifteen or twenty years, even with the spies appointed by the State Government, have not commended this policy to the favor of the law abiding. Doubtless there are many seamy places in North Carolina and other Southern States, but not more in proportion, we should think, than in the larger communities of the North; and yet we should protect that it is no part of the business of the General Government to expose the social rottenness in high places in that region of country. Better let the people take care of their own morals and their own affairs. That is Democratic.

RECIPROCATY.

One thing there is that the Democratic majority in the House should do—re-elect its present chaplain, Dr. Couden.

There was a Republican landslide in 1891. The Democratic majority in the House was swept out. At that time, the Rev. Dr. Milburn, a blind Democrat, was chaplain of the body. Some of the spoilsmen of the incoming majority thought that Dr. Milburn would have to go, so that a Republican might take his place. Then the vote was taken, and the Republican majority retained Dr. Milburn. He has been dead several years, and his successor, Dr. Couden, a Republican, in simple courtesy, in reciprocation of the Republican retention of Dr. Milburn, the Rev. Dr. Couden should be re-elected chaplain. He is entitled to the position.

"THE REBEL YELL" AT BALTIMORE.

The Waterbury American does not care whether the so-called "Rebel yell" was heard at the Baltimore Democratic banquet or not, and it is not disturbed in its patriotic slumbers by the reports that have reached it that "Dixie" and "Maryland, My Maryland," were sung over and over again at the great Democratic feed in the Fifth Regiment Armory. "Who cares, we say," the American remarks: "Such things happen at banquets, and nothing is said about it, but when they are Democratic it seems to be the customary thing to tell the country about it." Why not? Why shouldn't the country be told about it, and why shouldn't Democrats sing "Dixie" and "Maryland, My Maryland," and the "Star Spangled Banner," and "Old Black Joe," or any other song they please—"Yankee Doodle." If they wish—without somebody or other trying to make political capital out of it? "Dixie" is sung all over the world. Why shouldn't Democrats sing it? And even when it is played and sung in Northern communities, it makes even the cold-blooded Yankees disposed to whoop things up.

Besides, it has been a very long time since the Democrats have seen anything like the feast at Baltimore. That is the reason a great many of them would like to have the next National Democratic Convention held there. By that time it is hoped that Governor Baldwin will have things so well tied down in Connecticut that even the Waterbury American will be there, singing "Dixie" and practicing the "Rebel yell," along with the best and most musical of us.

TRESPASSING ON THE RAILWAYS.

Walking on the railway tracks is more dangerous than facing automobiles on the highways. Statistics prove it. On the right of way of the Pennsylvania Railroad two persons are killed daily, on an average. This company operates 11,355 miles of tracks. That is about five per cent. of the total railway mileage of the nation. It may be that the Pennsylvania has more than its share of accidents to trespassing pedestrians, as it goes through thickly settled industrial districts where the temptation to make short cuts is greater than is usually the case. In ten years, 7,995 persons have been killed while walking the tracks of the Pennsylvania company.

Conditions are such that the Pennsylvania road has begun to police its right of way and prosecute trespassers severely. Other railway companies will probably do likewise, as their territory becomes more thickly settled. This seems an unnecessary hardship on the common carriers and is distinctly a benevolent action on their part. Trespassing on a railroad right of way is too common, and it ought to be stopped.

PRAYER MEETING INSTEAD OF RAIL.

We agree with Senator Norman, of Alabama, that the inaugural ball, which is always held for the incoming Governor of that State, ought to be supplanted by a union prayer meeting; but if this substitution is to be adopted, we would suggest that failure of any of the members of the Legislature to attend the prayer meeting be made a misdemeanor, punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, within the discretion of the court. Senator Norman also believes that eight thousand men marching through the streets of Montgomery on inauguration day, are far too many, and we agree with him upon this proposition. They ought to be at home at work. Too much time is spent in these idle ceremonies; too much labor in the fields is lost; too many dollars are spent by the men who ought to save them for their families; but it looks as if Senator Norman is something of a Jeremiah. He thinks that Alabama is going too far, and fears "the time when a poor man, despite the possibility that he may have more brains than any other man

in the State, cannot become Governor of Alabama. We are now about to erect a \$50,000 home for the Governor. The Governor is going to have to live in accord with his house. That is enough to scare any countryman to death, and if you will observe, most of Alabama's Governors come from the country."

It does look very bad that eight thousand men take a day or two off from their work to wear themselves out with unnecessary enthusiasm; thousands of dollars spent in frivolities; \$50,000 put into a house for the Governor, and waste and reckless extravagances everywhere; but Senator Norman would not think nearly so much of the Governor of his State if the Governor should be compelled to live in a shanty, to attend a union prayer meeting in his shirt sleeves, and to subsist on cornbread and cabbage. Even the poorest man in Alabama, who has any pride in his State, rejoices when the Governor, representing the very poor as well as the very rich, dresses well, lives decently, and is big enough to mix with the Governors of other States on terms of equality. Just the same, however, we are very much impressed with the important change recommended by Senator Norman—that is to say, the substitution of a union prayer meeting for the customary inaugural ball.

AGE IN AMERICA.

Dr. Samuel G. Tracy, founder of the Health and Longevity Club of New York, has gathered statistics showing that the chances of living to be one hundred years old in the United States are greater than in any of the European countries, save Bulgaria. In that country almost one person in one thousand lives to the century mark. Dr. Tracy estimates that the average American has one chance in 25,000 to live one hundred years. This is a rather startling declaration. There are few communities of 25,000 that contain a centenarian. Dr. Tracy says that there is one centenarian in Germany to every 800,000 inhabitants; in England there is one to every 241,000; in France, one to every 182,000 people.

According to this same writer, the number of years a man lives is not so important as the period at which old age begins. He thinks that this period should not be until eighty or beyond, if proper observance of the rules of health and a careful use of the means of preserving vitality were the rule, more people who do not start in life with serious physical defects would lengthen the time when old age begins far beyond the present average.

AN OCEAN DERELICT.

In a recent New York sailing the entire passenger list was composed of one woman. It is a well known fact that anybody who happens to embark on an Atlantic liner between Christmas and New Year's is likely to find a very small ship's company, and the case of the lone woman is probably due to this condition of affairs in the holiday season.

Commenting on the single passenger, the Chicago Record-Herald says that such a situation "has both its privileges and its penalties." The woman will dine at the captain's table—no one will compete with her for that distinction. She will be the officers' guest on the bridge. She will have the undivided attention of stewards and stewardesses. The band will have to play her favorite musical selections. She can start the pool on the day's run and win it. She can organize the concert for the benefit of the seamen's orphans, executing the program and paying for all the tickets. She can, and she probably will, draw up and read the resolutions commending the captain and the crew and stating her absolute satisfaction with the trip. Yet the tips she pays will be the only ones received by the many attendants, who will show her attention and expect reward. Her subscription will be the only one made to the band. She must be liberal. "The steamer will be her private yacht, and private yachts are proverbially expensive." She will monopolize a tonnage of 10,000, and all the helpers that go with it. Her luxury will be as uncomfortable in some ways and as expensive as it will be excessive.

THE OVERCROWDED PROFESSION.

According to the New York World, "hard times" exist among the legal fraternity of that city and the country. "Evil days," says the World, "have fallen upon the lawyers. Never, they say, was practice less remunerative. Never were expenses so high." It is a fact that judges are besieged by hordes of applicants for trusteeships. Dispensers of political pie are having great trouble in trying to find positions for lawyers who are not making enough to make both ends meet.

The causes assigned by the World for the financial distress of lawyers are panic, less litigation, overcrowding of the profession.

It is true that the legal profession is the "last to feel financial depression." Hard times came last to the lawyer in the wake of a general panic. There is less litigation than has been the average in past years. There is no special cause for this state of affairs, but it exists.

The chief cause of the lawyers' difficulties is that the profession is overcrowded. There is one lawyer to every five hundred men, women and children in the United States. Estimates of practicing lawyers in New York vary from 14,000 to 18,000. The law schools of New York City alone graduated this year about 600 men. Thousands of men are sent into the profession every year by the law schools, and it might be added that there are too many law schools in the country. Too many of these are inefficient, and send out men who barely wedge themselves through the bars into a great profession.

Very rightly does the Macdon News declare:

"The law is a great science, one that

HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

ROYAL
BAKING
POWDER

Absolutely Pure
The only baking powder
made from Royal Grape
Cream of Tartar
NO ALUM, NO LIME PHOSPHATE

is valuable for any person to be familiar with, as its principles are at the basis of one daily life and commonest dealings and intercourse; but as a profession it is clearly overcrowded, and it would be the part of wisdom if fewer limbs of the law were turned out yearly with a view to making a life business of it.

Why is the profession overcrowded? The answer is as plain as day. Admission to the bar is far too easy. The bar examinations are not rigid enough; the educational preparation previous to the study of law is too little. Some States have very severe entrance requirements, such as New York and Massachusetts, while in other States it is very easy to be admitted to the bar. In Indiana any man can practice law, regardless of whether he has ever seen a law book or not. Until a year ago men who failed miserably in the freshman classes of colleges were admitted to the practice of law by the Supreme Court of South Carolina.

If the bar examinations were modeled on the theory that a minority of applicants and not a majority should be admitted to the profession, the law would be less crowded and would be composed of better lawyers. No law on earth can eliminate the shyster, but enforcement of a rigid set of requirements as to character and attainments for the bar would lessen the number of these disgraceful practitioners.

Yes, the times are hard for the lawyers, and more than hard for the young lawyer, whose chief asset is courage, and whose only surplus is hope. Many of these young men, who were potentially able lawyers, have been driven out of the profession by the popular attitude that a young lawyer knows no law and cannot know any law until he is old. The fact is that nobody knows very much law—the good lawyers are simply those who know the trend of the law—and many a lawyer well up in years would fall utterly if he were compelled to take again the bar examination. Young lawyers, as a rule, put more time and care into a case than blase practitioners, and that ought always to be remembered.

CULPEPER'S INGENUOUS ADVERTISEMENT.

The Culpeper Enterprise is nothing, if not original.

In the latest issue of our contemporary there is a photograph of an aged colored woman, "Aunt Lucy Fry." She lives in Culpeper. According to the Enterprise, she was born in Orange county, June 20, 1790. She was the slave of Mrs. Moses Bledsoe. She married John Conway in 1806, and her first child was born 103 years ago. The mother of three children, she was sold to Sam Shadrach, of Culpeper, and since that time she has been a resident of Culpeper. She still works at the wash tub; her mind is clear; her articulation is distinct; her recollection is remarkable. The Enterprise says that her memory goes back more than a century, and that she remembers the death of Washington.

Having stated these facts about the aged woman, the Enterprise adds:

"It is but natural for the people of Culpeper to boast of the healthfulness of this portion of the great Piedmont Section, renowned alike for its fertility, beauty and healthfulness, and we submit that Lucy Fry is a living example of the vigorous effects of our climatic conditions. It is here the birds carol their sweetest songs of joy, the flowers bloom so bright and fragrant, here, simply to feel that we breathe—that we live—is worth all the pleasure life elsewhere can give."

"We invite the stranger within our gates to share with us the blessings of nature, and to feel that we are not alone. That is very ingenious. Culpeper has a very good argument to sustain its contention that it is the abiding place of longevity. People expecting unseasonable death would do well to go to Culpeper, that county being really a pocket edition of paradise."

It is announced that Judge Baldwin, now Governor of Connecticut, who was so outrageously assailed by Colonel Roosevelt during the recent campaign, has taken our advice and will not press his suit against the Colonel. As the Springfield Republican says: "Why should he? No jury could improve on the verdict rendered in November." Besides, it has become the habit of the majority of the people of this country not to believe anything the Colonel says when his personal or political fortunes are involved.

The Federal authorities at Washington have seized ten thousand bad eggs, and destroyed them, we suppose. They ought to have conserved them. We shall need them in the next presidential campaign.

Good morning, Mr. Speaker Champ Clark!

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Football.
Is there a game of football in which players are not permitted to touch the ball with their hands? If so, what is the name of the game? Is it older than any other game of football? Is it played as much as other games?
R. S.
There is such a game. It is called "football under association rules," and no one is allowed to touch the ball except the goalkeeper. It is also called "soccer." It is extensively played in England and Scotland. What is known as the "Rugby" game is the older, having been traced back to the days of the ancient Romans.

Canal.
What is to be the length, depth and width of the Panama Canal? J. J. J.
The length of the canal will be 51 miles from deep water in the Pacific to deep water in the Caribbean Sea. The length from shore to shore will be approximately forty and one-half miles. The width varies at different points along the line of the canal, but the average width of the canal in the project is 640 feet and the minimum width is 300 feet. The minimum depth will be forty-one feet.

Canine.
On first acquaintance would it be

Flens.
What will drive fleas out of a house?
L. M.
It is said that the pests abate the smell of pennyrail. If you mix four ounces of the oil of pennyrail, two ounces of the oil of sassafras and four ounces of alcohol, put the mixture in an atomizer and spray the rooms, the fleas will seek other quarters. So says one who has tried it.

Elevator.
Does etiquette require that a man should remove his hat when in an elevator in which women are passengers?
B.
The laws of etiquette are not well settled on this subject, but a good rule is that the hat be removed.

LAWSUITS DECIDED IN FAVOR OF QUEEN

BY LA MARQUE DE FONTENAY.

QUEEN NATALIE OF SERBIA has been victorious in the possession of property of considerable value. The decision in final appeal at Belgrade, in favor of the Queen, was a triumph for her. They were suit commenced by the property of her ill-fated son, King Alexander, who was murdered, along with his brother, Prince Peter, in the city of Belgrade, in 1903. The King was eight years old. He owned at the time of his assassination a considerable amount of real estate, not only in Belgrade, but also elsewhere in Serbia, and although claims were put forward by the family of Queen Draga to the estate, the Queen's claim was upheld. The King's estate was divided into three parts, and had therefore become his own. In fact, the Queen's claim was admitted that they had killed Draga by emptying their revolvers into her and having her husband dying and unconscious, had breathed his last. The Queen's claim was upheld, and she was awarded the estate. The Queen's claim was upheld, and she was awarded the estate. The Queen's claim was upheld, and she was awarded the estate.

underwent great hardships, especially in the pursuit of white rhinoceroses, and returned to Europe suffering from deeply seated rheumatism, which made such rapid progress that his life was in danger. He was reduced to a shadow. The specialists had given up all hopes, when he was persuaded to try the serum of an American physician, the amazement of the German doctors, the Queen's claim was upheld, and she was awarded the estate. The Queen's claim was upheld, and she was awarded the estate. The Queen's claim was upheld, and she was awarded the estate.

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Voice of the People

Communications must not exceed more than 300 words. When this limit is exceeded letters will be returned. No anonymous communications will be accepted. All communications must be accompanied by a return address, with the writer's address, must accompany every communication.

James River and Public Wharf. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—The James River is noted for its history and its beauty. It is one hundred and four miles long to the head of navigation—Richmond city. There are several shoals in the river which the Federal Government has been digging a depth of eighteen feet at mean low tide. This river is easily navigated, though it bends somewhat below City Point, and much from City Point to every's Bluff. The same depth—eighteen feet—can be brought into the harbor to Richmond. The Federal Government has been liberal in its appropriations for the river. In March, 1905, a bill passed Congress and was approved for the dredging of the harbor. The city has done its share in the way of expenditures and work in keeping the harbor clear. James River is in many respects the greatest asset of the city, and should be carefully looked after. A water-borne commerce is always a check on railroad rates.

As to the public wharf, Richmond should own every berth within its port. A public wharf is one in which a transport may lie alongside and discharge and load cargoes with sufficient water always adjacent to the ship lock to the corporate limits, there is about 3,200 feet of berth space; about 1,400 feet of this is owned by companies, used exclusively for their own purposes. From Gillies Creek to Nichols Street, a distance of 633 feet, is owned by the city of Richmond, from Nicholson Street to the corporate limits, about 1,100 feet is owned by private parties. Much has been said in the interest of and about a public wharf. It has been proposed to build this public wharf from Gillies Creek to Nicholson Street (concrete pile wharf). Where this proposed wharf is to be built is the shoalest part of the harbor; not one berth over eleven and a half feet at mean low tide. As the government wharf has eighteen feet in the main channel, no wharf should be built having alongside less depth than the government channel, which is about forty-five feet from the proposed wharf. The material at the bottom of the river front of the proposed wharf consists of hard rock, soft rock, sand and clay, and should be dredged before the wharf is built.

I have for many years endeavored to have sufficient wharves within the harbor of Richmond to enable ships to load and discharge cargoes with safety. As harbor master of the city for eighteen years, and familiar for fifty years with conditions affecting the river, I think that I am in a measure at least qualified to express an opinion upon them, and I shall feel it my duty to do so whenever occasion demands.

JOHN A. CURTIS,
Harbor Master.

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